

Quote

THE WEEKLY DIGEST

Volume 8

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Number 8

WITHIN THE WEEK

The new Allied landings in France could not have been much surprise to friend or foe. The only question was one of time. Thus the feeble enemy resistance is a revealing, if not a surprising admission of weakness.

It seems probable that we shall presently see a merging of all Allied forces in France. The German 7th is no longer in position to offer formidable resistance. Newly-landed forces will engage the two German armies in the S of France and about Paris. Then all hands may be expected to "gang up" on the German 15th.

FRENCH UNDERGROUND: You will recall our forecast of invasion wk that the underground is destined to play a most significant role in the liberation of France. They have been contributing all along; now their participation becomes more apparent. We need a new term to mark these patriotic forces. "Underground" is no longer appropriate for they now emerge in open defiance. This French movement is something quite different from the ill-timed Polish revolution, which flowered too soon; was promptly quelled by Nazis. The French are well armed, competently drilled and disciplined, and most important, perhaps, supported by ample Allied military strength.

ADDITIONAL INVASIONS:

You may confidently expect a further extension of Allied operations on the Continent. We have the reserve forces and we are going to use them. This time, however, the next move is not quite so apparent. It may be Yugoslavia (where the Nazis are already reported especially jittery) or in Greece, or, again in Norway and, or Denmark. Whenever and wherever the move comes, it will be in sufficient force to completely dominate the area, and to overcome quickly the enemy's futile resistance.

UNITED KINGDOM CASUAL-

TIES: A report of enemy air raids over the United Kingdom for July was released this wk. It revealed less than 10,000 casualties—2,441 killed; 7,107 injured. With no intent to minimize the menace, it must be pointed out that if this represents Hitler's ultimate in retaliation, it is an impotent gesture.

RUSSIA: The Red Army setback in the Warsaw area is a temporary condition resulting from the Nazi determination to hold off the Russians at any cost. This they cannot do. Tremendous reserves of the Red Army will be thrown in at the opportune time. Meanwhile enemy resistance is systematically weakened thru these costly counter-attacks.



SHIFTING SANDS

Not much has been printed on surrender terms for Germany, but diplomatic and military leaders of all the concerned powers are working actively on the problem. There's gen'l agreement on some important points. Safe to say that leading Allied powers will not ask for money reparations, as in '18. Such demands are difficult to collect, lead to dissension, bear seeds of future wars. U S and Britain do not like idea of German work battalions in Russia, but see some point in Russian program; will probably give in the end. Poland is certain to get some German territory (no serious disagreement here). Present trend is away from partitioning Germany. Feeling is that it would complicate controls; that nation can be rendered militarily impotent without division. (Regardless of what you may read, this point is not finally determined). Allied powers want to get Germans back to Germany from adjacent countries. Don't quite know how.



FOR THOSE WHO WILL NOT BE MENTALLY MAROONED

Quote

"HE WHO NEVER QUOTES, IS NEVER QUOTED"

Charles Haddon Spurgeon

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"I'd know that pooch anywhere."
—Marine private who spied Pres's dog, *Fala*, at San Diego, thus revealing to his mates presence of chief executive.

"He (Dewey) has a voice that just wags its tail when you hear it over the radio."—Prof RICHARD BORDEN, speech instructor, who has been giving pointers to N Y governor, as quoted in *New Yorker*.

"You haven't got the sand out of your hair on this side."—Comment of a vet, wounded in Normandy, when he ret'd to U S to find 50,000 mid-west truck drivers on strike.

"They were just as disorganized as 50 youngsters going out on a camping trip all alone."—An American officer commenting on disorganization of retreating Nazi troops in France.

"It takes more than the loss of a leg for a guy to say he has done enough."—Cpl FRANK J UHLENBROCK, age 19. (His leg was amputated after a battle injury at Guam).

"I don't comment on Mr Roosevelt's holidays."—Gov THOS E DEWEY, when asked for statement concerning Pres's recent inspection trip to Hawaii and Aleutians. (Asked if he used term "holidays" advisedly, Dewey smiled, "Why, surely.")

"Do you think I'd leave Jon and go on tour if I wasn't sure of him?"—FRANCES LANGFORD, wife of movie actor JON HALL, commenting on her husband's recent "misunderstanding" with TOMMY DORSEY (DORSEY claimed HALL had "made passes" at Mrs DORSEY).

"We aim to have a League of Nations, or whatever you want to call it, that's a going concern before the end of the war."—TOM CONNALLY, Texas, chairman Senate Foreign Relations committee. (Action of DEWEY in warning against "coercive power" of world leaders is clear indication that foreign policy will creep into current election campaign.)

"MAY WE

Quote

YOU ON THAT?"

"Victory this year!"—Cry in the streets of Moscow.

"The supreme hour has struck. It is the hour when we must throw into battle the last little ounce of strength."—BERLIN RADIO.

"Our parting was terribly amicable."—MIMI FORSYTHE, wealthy society actress, announcing separation from BEN BOGEAUS, film producer.

"I request every soldier to go forward to his assigned objective with the determination that the enemy can survive only thru surrender."—Gen DWIGHT D EISENHOWER, in an order of the day, urging renewed effort for a supreme victory.

"It seems to me their only chance will be to stay in the service. It will be no easy job for them to step back to where they were before they entered the army." — Col Wm C MENNINGER, chief, Div of Neuro-Psychiatry, Office of Surgeon-Gen'l, discussing plight of men who have advanced to positions of responsibility in armed forces, far beyond their comparable civil stations.

"We've got to quit making mom's boys out of these fellows. They're grown up. They're tough. And a whole lot less susceptible to propaganda of any nature than we civilians are."—MAURY MAVERICK, of Texas, discussing military censorship of reading matter for armed forces abroad. (Indications are War dep't is pretty sorry it ever started move to limit books, periodicals, movies which might influence soldier vote.)

"Please, sir, don't talk that way to me. Gen'l Patton's just been thru here."—Explanation of an M P in a French village, when berated by a Col for permitting a traffic jam.

"All you have to do with those Huns is drive them up one hill and kick them down another, all the way to Berlin . . . Hell, this is more of a rat race than a battle."—Lt-Gen GEO S PATTON ("Old Blood & Guts") leading American motorized spearheads in W France. (After yr's delay Senate this wk confirmed PATTON promotion to permanent rank of Maj-Gen'l.)

"Ah, that lovely, endless American hospitality! In one city I had no less than 17 public meals, and all they 'charged' me for that was a speech or 'a few words'!"—Rev CECIL NORTHCOTT, sec'y London Missionary society, who recently completed 4 mo's tour of U S.

"I will surrender when every one of our bullets has been fired and every one of our bayonets is sticking in a German belly." — Capt R A KERLEY, commanding "lost battalion" in France, responding to surrender demands of SS troops. (Battalion was rescued after being cut off s of Mortain for 5½ days).

"I am not prepared to say now whether I will advance my hdqs to the Marianas, but I can say that I am constantly on the lookout for an opportunity to move closer to the fighting."—Adm CHESTER W NIMITZ, who told press conference this wk that war may be won "without invading Japan" although occupation would be necessary "to insure a winning peace."

"It is an evil thing that there should be such a thing as a 'Negro vote.' There should be no more excuse for a Negro vote than for an Irish vote, or a Protestant vote. But the fact is that we ourselves have created a Negro vote by having deliberately set the Negro apart . . ." *PM*, liberal newspaper, pointing out that Negro vote in 10 northern and border states can swing the Nov election.

"It's loss of hope, not loss of life that makes a nation capitulate."—Gen'l HAROLD L. GEORGE.

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"Them hedges is what my grandpappy would call 'horse-high, bull-strong and hog-tight.'"—A Va infantryman, in Normandy.

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"I believe a man should never own anything during his life that he can't get into his coffin with him when he goes."—FRED ALLEN, radio comedian quoted in *Look*.

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"Victory is certain. Remember 1918!"—Gen Sir HENRY MAITLAND WILSON, supreme Allied commander in Mediterranean, in a message to the French people.

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"Take part immediately in this supreme war effort of the nation in these decisive days. Destroy the enemy on our territory in order to enter his territory as victors."—Gen'l DE GAULLE, in a broadcast to French patriots.

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"There is no short-cut to victory in our war with Japan, however and whenever Germany is crushed. Anything less than 2 yrs of severe fighting will be a gift."—JAS R YOUNG, for 13 yrs head of Internat'l News Service in Japan.

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"I thought I left the war at the front, but nobody here will talk about anything else. Maybe it's their idea of a nice restful homecoming, but I can tell you it isn't mine."—Comment of a soldier, on furlough from the S Sea islands.

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"P. S. Oh, yes, another boy and I captured 122 prisoners one morning. We had a little shooting, but we got them."—Pvt HARVEY SNOW, in a letter to his wife, at Trenton, Mo. (He participated in Allied push from Anzio to Rome.)

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"Buster simply must take things easy. He has an upset stomach and a bad case of nerves."—Mrs MARGARET T THOMSON, Brookline, Mass. (And BUSTER can afford the rest. World's richest cat, he's heir to reputed \$100,000 left by his late master WOODBURY RAND.)

"Victory is, after all, the best propaganda."—ELMER DAVIS, chief of OWI, in an interview given at Guam.

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"My living expenses are the same today as in 1917, and my income has increased considerably."—CHAS A BEARD, historian.

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"Will the DAR who took my good blue umbrella at the Linen Shower June 14 ret'n it and receive the old torn black silk one? No reward. Everyone knows her own umbrella."—Ad in *Pottsville (Pa) Republican*.

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"I can't remember street numbers. Without my calculator, I even have trouble adding a col of figures."—Cmdr HOWARD H AIKEN, who presented to Harvard U, the world's greatest mathematical calculator, perfected after 8 yrs' work.

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"If that had been a Marine he would have shot me right square thru the forehead."—Disparaging comment on Japanese marksmanship of a U S Marine, hospitalized from chest wounds inflicted at close range by a Jap sniper.

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"Never once have we chaplains been restrained from preaching the whole Word of God. For this attitude on the part of our Gov't every American should express his thanks."—Chaplain JOS S LONG, now serving at a station hospital in Texas.

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"I will be very much surprised if the *luftwaffe* stages a comeback—they have gone too far. They still have good equipment. . . but even new equipment is not likely to pull the *luftwaffe* out of a tailspin."—Air Chief Marshall Sir TRAFFORD LEIGH-MALLORY, in a press conference at AEF Supreme Hdqtrs.

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"The New Deal has tires for beer and whisky trucks, but none to go to church."—Sign which Rev H F MENKE, Baptist minister, McLeansboro, Ill, posted on his car. Vehicle was parked in town square as protest against action of ration bd. (Bd officials contend they offered Rev MENKE one tire, but he insisted on "two or nothing.")

"It's the only way a fellow can get a 'hitch' these days."—HAROLD ATKINS, 18, arrested by U S marshal for illegally wearing Navy uniform. (Lad said he had borrowed uniform from a friend who had worn it often in "hitching" rides.)

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"I do not wish to have such an object in my possession. Ret'n it with the suggestion that it be given burial."—FRANKLIN D ROOSEVELT, instructing White House secretariat concerning disposition of letter-opener sent by a well-wisher who claimed it was carved from bone of a Japanese soldier.

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"Will they (2,000,000 to 3,000,000 housewives now working at war jobs) be rated as unemployed if they ret'n to their homes when peace comes? Will they. . . have only to register as willing to work, to draw unemployment compensation for the next few yrs?"—Sen ROBT A TAFT, seeking clarification of certain provisions of MURRAY-KILGORE bill which proposed compensation for jobless war workers in reconstruction period. (Senate this wk rejected MURRAY-KILGORE measure in favor of more moderate GEORGE bill.)



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COLUMNIST'S COLUMN

"Keep it Clean!"

PETER EDSON

Let's get all this whispering-behind-the-back personality stuff of the coming political campaign spread out in the open—and then forget it.

There has been some indication of an effort to belittle Gov Dewey because of his size and gen'l appearance. He has been criticised for being too "pretty" to be in the White House. He has been dubbed "Mr Staycomb" because his raven locks are always in place. Some don't like his mustache.

It is against Dewey's size, however, that cruelest jibes have been thrown. One Chicago New Deal paper cartooned his nomination by showing a diminutive Dewey in a big spotlight on a bigger stage with the caption, "So This is It!"

There is the now famous crack about Republicans not only being willing to swap horses in mid-stream, but to swap a horse for a Shetland pony. And how Dewey sat on a phone book while being photographed at his desk. . .

But there is a more potent reason than any of these for keeping this campaign free of personal abuse. For the past 12 yrs, by common consent, there has been no reference to the personal affliction of Franklin D Roosevelt. He has taken plenty of abuse on his ideas, policies, deeds. But things about him, beyond his control have been scrupulously kept out of the argument.

That's why this campaign should be kept clean and the criticism of Dewey based where it belongs—on his governmental doctrines and theories alone. — *Scripps-Howard Newspapers.*

CHINA—Gov't

Far Eastern experts believe the Occident-minded Soong dynasty is losing some of its power and prestige in China and that the once-popular "First Lady" is less highly esteemed than before. They attribute this to failure of the U S to carry out quickly the "promises" she took back from this country. . . Moreover, old-school Chinese don't approve of Mme Chiang's western habits of life and dress; many resent her role as Chiang's adviser, since Chinese women traditionally remain in the background.—*Newsweek*, 8-14-'44.

COURAGE—Comparative

On the eve of D-Day, Rob't Capa, the news photographer was in a plane with a group of paratroopers who were to descend back of enemy lines. One of the lads, much interested in the photographer and his work, asked innumerable questions. Capa told him of his travels with the Army in Spain, China and Africa.

As the moment approached to jump, the young paratrooper arose, shook hands with the photographer, wished him luck. "I don't think I'd like your job," he said, "It's too dangerous."—VINCENT SHEEAN, "Courage and Fear," *Redbook*, 8-'44.

EDUCATORS—Compensation

"We have to take 2nd-rate people," the school principal said sadly. "We can't compete financially for 1st-rate ones. I had a Wellesley graduate a few mo's ago. She was a good teacher; she stayed just one wk. 'The boys in my room are insolent,' she said, 'I don't have to take it. I can make more money with less grief in an airplane factory.'" The principal shook her head. "We pay big money to build airplanes, and we pay starvation wages to those who are bldg future citizens."—DOROTHY DUCAS, "Your Kids are the Victims," *This Wk*, 8-6-'44.

ETIQUETTE—Streamlined

There's an office bldg in San Francisco whose management has solved one vexatious problem of elevator behavior. A sign in each car reads: "To Expedite Egress: Passengers standing nearest the door

are requested, irregardless of sex, to go out 1st."—*New Yorker*.

FAITH—and Action

Faith isn't a self-indulgent clinging to God, like a parasite. Things don't move until something starts them. Grain that had lain inert for centuries was found in an Egyptian tomb. Put in the ground it grew, because the warm sun, the softening moisture, the chemically active soil aroused each kernel's latent vigor.

In everyone's setting, there are many latent good and bad forces. Faith is a belief that if you seek out the latent good ones and stimulate them into action, the evil may well be overcome. — DAVID SEABURY, "Modern Miracles of Faith," *Argosy*, 8-'44.

School Daze

What they think when little Johnny starts to school for the 1st time:

His mother: My little darling is almost grown up!

His father: I hope he makes a fullback.

His sister: Now I've got to walk to school with him and can't go with the other kids.

The Neighbors: Thank goodness! Now we can have peace for a few hrs a day.

His dog: Yoo-o-ow-l-l-

FAITH—and Works

My faith in God is complete. He will always look after me. But I also have to help myself, and in this chain, the human element is the weak link.—Excerpt from a combat flier's letter to his family, quoted by MARGARET FISHBACK, *Liberty*.

GERMANY—Future

Permanent domination of Europe by the Germans will prove impossible. It will be equally impossible to reconstruct Europe without the co-operation of a purified, re-educated and reorganized Germany.—WM F SOLLMAN (mbr of Reichstag 1919-33; former sec'y of Interior in Germany, now U S citizen) "Facing the German People," *U S News*, 8-11-'44.

HEAVEN—Defined

Heaven is a place prepared for those who are prepared for it.—*Houston (Tex) Times*.

MARRIED LIFE

Marriage is like a bathtub full of water—after awhile it's not so hot.—*HARRY SAVOY*, on Kate Smith radio hr.

NINETEEN FORTY-X

After breakfast we don't clear the table because the dishes are plastic and embossed in the table. We touch a button; the table folds into the wall, dishes and all. Another button starts a spray of soapy water inside the chamber, washing and rinsing the soiled utensils. A 3rd button operates a heating unit that dries everything, ready for the next meal.—"Housewives' Heaven," *American Wkly*, 8-13-'44.

OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

Austrians in the German army, who make known their nationality, can usually count on preferred treatment in Czechoslovakia. There's a story of three soldiers in German uniforms who entered a small restaurant and ordered coffee. The waiter shouted in Czech: "Three coffees with rat poison." At this point one of the soldiers arose and, also speaking in Czech, amended the order: "Only two coffees with rat poison, please; I am an Austrian."—*News Flashes From Czechoslovakia*.

OPINION

You probably wouldn't worry about what people think of you if you knew how seldom they do.—*The Wood-Worker*.

ORIGINS

Vire, now figuring in Normandy war theatre, is the original home of vaudeville. The term was derived from Val or Vau de Vire (Valley of the Vire). In a wooded gorge of the Vire stood a mill which belonged to ancestors of Olivier Basselin; to Olivier were ascribed the "Vaux de Vire" drinking songs, 1st published in 17th century, which sounded the keynote of early vaudeville entertainment.—From a bulletin of Nar'l. GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.

PRAISE—vs Censure

Johnny Figarro, 13-yr-old Italian boy, was a problem. He reveled in fighting; spoiling games of younger children. He was insolent to teachers. The more he was punished, the more defiant he became.

In the sixth grade he encountered a quiet, demure woman teacher. One day Johnny was sent inside at recess. He clumped noisily to his seat. Miss A regarded him quietly, then said pleasantly, "Johnny, how nice you look today in that clean shirt." He squared his shoulders and sat erect. At noon a frayed black tie was clumsily fastened under his collar. Miss A was quick to notice and approve. Next day, his knotted shoe laces were replaced with new ones, and his scuffed shoes shone. "Praise Johnny Figarro," Miss A whispered to the other teacher.

Johnny Figarro became president of a state university in the Middle West. An encouraging boost saved a boy.—*Christian Union Herald*.

Credit the K-9 Corps

When Winston Churchill visited the Normandy beachhead he had a close call with death. He was talking with a group of English Tommies when a dog was noticed barking defiantly at a tree 100 yds away. The continued barking aroused the interest of an English soldier. Investigating, he saw the green uniform of a German soldier in the upper branches.

On command, the soldier descended, nervous and shaking. To intelligence officers, the sniper admitted he had aimed his rifle at the outstanding target, but failed to squeeze the trigger because the incessant barking of the dog made him too nervous.—*PETER BOGGS, Boggs on Dogs* (McNaught Syndicate).

PRAYER

To pray "like a beggar" is to heighten our spiritual distress and produce no beneficial spiritual results. To pray like a child of God who has confidence in his heavenly Father is to become heir to the goodness and grace of God.—Editorial, *Christian Advocate*.



**CONFIDENTIALLY
THRU A
MEGAPHONE**

Statisticians in War dept now come up with surprising statement that it costs more to kill a Nazi soldier (\$55,000) than to bring down a German plane (\$44,000.) Incidentally, the money req'd to kill one soldier in this war would have done away with 66,000 men in the days of Caesar. Cost of killing, it seems, is even higher than the cost of living.

Washington observers are charging Sec'y Morgenthau with a political blunder. He is sending revenue agents on farm-to-farm check of income taxes, with election only a few wks off! Sec'y says the calls are routine and "should generate no animosity."

United Auto Workers (CIO) is making interesting test case of radio station WHKC, Columbus. FCC is to conduct hearing on union's charge that station "hamstrung" UAW while permitting "anti-labor agitators to pour forth their venom daily, immune from censorship." Union asks that station's license be revoked.

Used-car dealers are now making bids for family bus by emphasizing add'l profit that can be made by applying cash to outstanding mortgages, etc. Example: "By selling me your car and applying what you receive for it to your mortgage you can reduce your payments by as much as twice what I pay you. In other words, if I pay you the ceiling price of \$500 for your car, you really are getting \$1,000 for it by virtue of the interest you save."

When Paul Robeson takes *Othello* on tour this fall, his contract stipulates percentage of lower-floor seats available to Negro patrons.



AUTOMOBILE: Crosley believes there will be continuing demand for small car; is now planning post-war model. Pre-war Crosley was powered by 2-cylinder motor-cycle-type motor. New model will have more power. Plan is to keep price down—substantially under Ford.

ILLUMINATION: Recent development is fluorescent light in bulb form; gives better light with little heat; uses less current.

MEDICINE: Dr E P Vellmer, U S Naval Air Station, San Diego cites experiments to show chronic malnutrition has serious effect on endocrine system. Contention: hormone therapy will have wide field in rehabilitation and restoration of starving populations. (RN jnl for nurses)

PLASTICS: Mass production of thermoplastics has been retarded in some degree because of relatively slow molding. Celanese Corp is now developing process for quick cooling of thermoplastics in viscous state. May mark important new step in postwar development of industry.

SCIENCE: New electric-shock technique counteracts effects of extreme grief. Severe depression, failing memory, insomnia, lost appetite, suicidal tendencies, etc, caused by sudden loss of loved one have been curbed by applying 5 to 10 electric shocks of type used in treating mental disorders. (Your Life.)

TELEVISION: NBC and Mutual are combining to launch technical school in Chicago to train men as electrical engineers in television. Preference may be given ret'g war vets, but others are admissible.

RECONVERSION

It is an easier task to convert from peace to war than from war to peace. With the coming of war a sort of totalitarianism is asserted. The Gov't tells each business what it is to contribute to the war program—just what it is to make and where it is to get the stuff out of which to make it. The planning and execution rest upon one overall purpose and a single control. Patriotism exercises a strong compulsion.

With peace, the opposite becomes true. Each has the right to make what he pleases. Governmental direction and aid disappear. The markets become free and each individual is dependent upon his vision, his courage, his resourcefulness, and his energy.—JACK BARBASH, "Reconversion," *The News Leader*, 7-29-'44.

RELIGION—and Politics

A friend of mine moved to the city several mo's ago. Recently she ret'd for a visit, and the subject of church attendance came up.

"We liked the church we are attending very well at first," she said, "but I am afraid we will have to make a change. Tom says he is just sure the preacher is a Democrat!"—*Capper's Wkly.*

SABBATH—Observance

Last yr I worked as foreman of a construction company in Alaska. A native Indian in the company complained he never had time to read his Bible; thought he'd have to take a day off to do it. "How about nights?" I suggested. Too many relatives and mbrs of the family around, he explained. "Well, there's always Sunday," I observed. "Oh, no, no," said the Indian quickly. "Sundays I have to make the big gamble."—J R BOWMAN, *Your Life*.

THEORY—vs Practice

According to the theory of aerodynamics, readily demonstrated thru laboratory tests and wind-tunnel experiments, the bumblebee is unable to fly. Size, weight and shape of his body in relation to total wingspread make flying impossible. However, the bumblebee, being ignorant of these profound scientific truths, goes ahead and flies anyway.

How to Treat the Returning Serviceman

About 30,000 men a month are being discharged from the armed forces, unfit for further duty. Their wounds are both mental and physical.

Only we at home—families, friends and employers—can furnish the sympathy and intelligence to treat psychological injuries, and allow these men to regain normal happiness and usefulness. Instruction for young children is especially necessary. Their thoughtless remarks can cut most of all.

Be casual and matter-of-fact, particularly in nervous disabilities. Do not be patronizing. The veteran is sick; needs your understanding help.

Don't be squeamish about disfiguring wounds. Neither stare nor elaborately avoid them. Face it and forget it. The same thing could happen in peacetime, and does—often.

Don't gush or treat the veteran differently from anyone else. Let him be depressed if he wants to. That is his right. He'll snap out of it.

Don't ask questions or give advice. If he wants to talk, listen. Don't mention his disfigurement unless he does, but don't pretend it doesn't exist.

Don't rush about doing things for an injured man. Let him feel that he is pulling his own weight. You will be amazed how quickly he can learn to do things for himself, if you will let him.—*From a bulletin, Honorable Discharge, issued by STATE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE CO.*

VALUE

It is unfortunate that so many citizens are demanding something for nothing. It is even more unfortunate that they are getting it.—*Grit.*

VIEWPOINT

On awakening in the morning the saint says, "Good morning, God"; the debutante: "Good God, morning!"—*From a lecture, quoted in Catholic Digest.*

The Red Army Commissar—Phenomenon of War

The commissar system which prevails in the Russian Army has been the subject of much discussion and criticism by military strategists thru-out the world. Judged by familiar standards and considerations, the system is clumsy and inefficient. Yet, somehow, it seems to work—and work wonders. One of the clearest presentations of the commissar we have yet seen is that given by LELAND STOWE, of Chicago Daily News Foreign Service, in his book, They Shall Not Sleep (Knopf, \$3.)

Following the purges of 1936-'37 the commissars had ret'd to the army with all the necessary powers to check on the loyalty of every officer. But in Finland they often showed themselves too zealous and too rigid in their control.

Within a month after Hitler attacked the Soviet Union, the Presidium Council issued a new decree specifying the precise functions of commissars in the Red Army. The decree did not refer to them as "political" but as war commissars. It was based upon Stalin's dictum: "If the commander is the head of the regiment, the regiment's commissar must be its father and soul." During and after Russia's civil war commissars were primarily political. They were security officers who propagandized for Communist ideology. Abroad there has been a tendency ever since to regard the commissars in this narrow light. In the struggle against Germany commissars have been a combination of army chaplain, educational director, propagandist, and efficiency expert. Overwhelming emphasis is placed on his responsibility for "fulfillment of the fighting task." He is "the moral leader of his unit, the first defender of its material and spiritual interests," he must "inspire the troops to fight," must popularize the best men and "carry on a merciless fight against cowards, panic-mongers, deserters." It was also his job to hear and remove just grievances of the troops. His 1st task was the bldg of morale. It still is.

To quote our own Brig-Gen Philip Paymonville, chief of U S Army's supply mission to Moscow: "The whole Russian Army feels that wrongs won't go unrighted, that grievances will be heard, that serious delinquencies will be reported to the top. This has a most beneficial effect upon military commanders. . . The commissar system is one of selection and a selective

system is almost bound to bring the best men to the top. A commissar's life is no bed of roses. Commissars go into the attack with their outfits, often lead them. Thousands have been killed, but other thousands of well-trained commissars have taken their places. The Russians get something out of this system which we haven't got. It's a system which keeps officers as well as men on their toes. Our own inspector-gen'l system does not go nearly so deep, nor does it operate so completely and swiftly."

Along the Rzhev front I talked with scores of commissars ranging in rank from the equivalent of gen'l's down to captains and lieutenants. They were impressively keen men, their quality as leaders universally apparent. They shared the responsibility of command and military decision with Red Army officers of equal rank. This dual command was what American and British officers criticised as confusing and impractical. Certainly it req'd a rare degree of teamwork. . . Cases of incompatibility and disagreement undoubtedly cropped up, but I never heard of instances of disagreement on a serious scale. . .

There is another factor almost completely overlooked by Anglo-American critics: in its commissars the Red Army has something which exists in no other army in the world—a reserve officers' training institution which functions in the front lines, not in schools hundreds of miles from the actualities of combat. Every commissar goes to school under shellfire. Commissars of the rank of major and above, whom I met were already excellent officers, save for technical instruction. They had some things the average West Pointer would never acquire in the same measure: an acutely developed political sense, plus knowledge of the intimate problems of their troops.



MINING THE MAGAZINES

Blood, Sweat and Plasma—ALBERT Q. MAISEL,* *Cosmopolitan*, 8-'44.

This is the story of an LST boat landing at Vierville beachhead on D-Day to pick up wounded. The two Navy doctors were fresh from internships. The Army surgeon had never seen a battle or treated a battle wound. The 20 medical sailors were hospital corpsmen in name only. One had been an embalmer! The others—stock clerks and soda jerkers—had had only theoretical training. All were frankly afraid—of not being adequate.

We'd taken on more than 100 wounded; pumped their veins full of new blood and operated on the worst of them. And we hadn't lost a single man! We hadn't been scared or worried; we hadn't had time!

We had started from England with 200 pts of plasma; our stock was down to less than 50. We had used over 2 million units of penicillin; our remaining million would guarantee the men against crippling infections. We had done a good job with this green crew led by green doctors, and now as we all sat back after our 1st real meal in 3 days, we felt calm and confident. . .

We dropped anchor and a lighter drew up on the LST. Quietly, and with great gentleness, 20 Negro engineers brought the wounded out into the sunlight, laid them on the lighter's open deck. The corpsmen and doctors stood on deck and watched. They must have got a tremendous kick out of the hand that raised itself from among all the stretchers and waved us a slow good-by.

* Mr. Maisel is author of the book, "Miracles of Military Medicine."

Moriarity went to call on his friend, the Doctor. "It's me wife," he explained "that 's sendin' me here. She's concerned with the state o' me health."

"Hm-m," said the Doctor meditatively. After an hr's examination and a series of searching questions, the medico gave his verdict: "All that 's the matter with you, Moriarity, is that you've been drinking too much."

"Well, that may be," admitted Moriarity, "but I can't be goin' back and tellin that t' me wife."

"Oh," said the Doctor, "just tell her you're suffering from syncopation."

"Shure," said the pleased patient, "you be writin' that on a bit of paper and I'll give it to her." Which he did.

And the trusting but inquisitive Mrs Moriarity, spelling out the strange word, letter by letter, in the dictionary, read the definition: "Irregular movement from bar to bar."



OF THE WEEK

"The way things are going, the Allies will probably finish off the Reich quite some time before the reading public can finish off the books about what to do with it.—HOWARD BRUBAKER, *New Yorker*.

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News from the battleline to the west of us indicates that Japan is rapidly running out of oil, steel, planes, ships, and S Pacific islands.—*Grit*.

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"Hitler, we note, is now engaged in a seasonal occupation: canning generals. However, indications are that he isn't preserving many.

GOOD STORIES YOU CAN USE

LAUGHS WITH LEGISLATORS

Rep COMPTON I WHITE
of Idaho

A Negro sharecropper had raised a fair crop of cotton. He took it to town and turned it over to a merchant on his account. When the settlement was made he had \$40 to his credit. The merchant counted out four \$10 bills.

As the old man started to put the money in a worn tobacco sack, the merchant said, "Mose, that's no way to carry money; let me wrap it up for you."

The darkey handed over four \$10 bills, which the merchant wrapped in a neat little pkg and ret'd. That evening, after supper, the old man drew his chair up to the fireplace and turned to his precious pkg. Upon unwrapping the money, he could find only three bills. For a long time he sat, miserably reflecting, then he philosophically opined: "They's tricks in all trades, but I reckon I'd ruther be a good 'money-wropper' than mos' anything."

A merchant was called upon to defend a suit brought against him by a dissatisfied customer. Just before the conclusion of the proceedings, the merchant had to go on a trip to another state. Accordingly, he instructed his attorney to telegraph him when a decision had been reached by the judge trying the suit. When the merchant arrived he received a message from his lawyer, saying: "Right has triumphed."

The merchant hastily wired his lawyer: "Appeal at once."—*Pathfinder*.

This, then, is the strange saga of an expectant mother in the city of Chicago. An apartment-dwelling matron, she had a loathing for all forms of physical exercise.

"But," prodded the persistent physician-in-waiting, "you *must* have exercise. Force yourself to walk. Ten blocks a day. Every day."

So the matron walked. Dutifully. Five blocks up the street. Five blocks back. A dreary, monotonous trek, broken only by the twinkle of traffic signals.

And in the fullness of time, her child was born. A healthy, well-developed youngster. But attendants were surprised to observe: one eye was red, the other green.

